
**A message from
Attorney General
Roy Cooper**



“Our state cannot and will not tolerate any intimidation, discrimination or violence against a person due to that person’s race, religion or national origin. Such acts are unlawful under both state and federal law, and even worse, they are morally wrong.”

—Attorney General Roy Cooper

September 19, 2001

Hate crimes target individual victims, but these crimes also victimize the entire community by creating fear, anger and mistrust.

The best way to stop hate crime is to report it. The Attorney General’s Office encourages the prompt reporting, investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. Victims and Citizens Services, in cooperation with the North Carolina Justice Academy and the State Bureau of Investigation’s Division of Criminal Information, works with police chiefs, sheriffs, magistrates and district attorneys to tackle hate crimes in North Carolina.

Victims and Citizens Services can help answer legal questions about hate crimes, and our office can connect hate crime victims with assistance and resources in their communities. Our office is also a source of information and advice to local law enforcement agencies and district attorneys on investigations, constitutional and criminal procedure issues, and dealing with public reaction to the prosecution of hate crimes.

Preventing Hate Crime and Discrimination



Attorney General Roy Cooper

North Carolina Department of Justice
Victims and Citizens Services
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HATE CRIMES IN NORTH CAROLINA

In our state, a **hate crime** is commonly used to described crimes against persons because of their race, religion, color, nationality, or country of origin [North Carolina General Statutes § 14-401.14]. Hate crimes allow for penalty enhancement for an act that is already criminal. For these crimes, a judge may impose a more severe sentence [North Carolina General Statutes § 14.3(c) and § 15A-1340.16(d)(17)].

A **hate incident** is different from a hate crime. This action involves action or behavior motivated by hate but is protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of expression. Examples of hate incidents may include name calling, distribution of hate materials in public places and display of offensive hate-motivated literature on one's public property.. For more information, please contact::

Victims and Citizens Services
9001 Mail Service Center
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N.C. Human Relations Commission
217 West Jones Street, 4th Floor
Raleigh, NC 27602
Tel: (919) 733-7996

www.doa.state.nc.us/doa/hrc/hrc.htm

HATE CRIME VICTIMS

Hate crimes should be reported to the proper law enforcement officials, such as your local police or sheriff's department. If you suspect you are a victim of a hate crime, you should:

- Call the local police or sheriff's department immediately.
- Obtain medical attention if necessary.
- Preserve the crime scene (for example, graffiti, writing). Do not remove evidence before law enforcement officers arrive.
- Keep written records. Write down the exact words spoken and any other relevant information. Note the names, addresses and phone numbers of all people involved in the crime scene (such as other victims and witnesses) and investigation.
- Contact a community-based organization in your area that responds to hate crimes.

AIR TRAVEL DISCRIMINATION

If you suspect that you have experienced discrimination based on race, color, national origin or sex, religion or ancestry as an air traveler, then you should file a complaint with the United States Department of Transportation's Aviation Consumer Protection Division. For more information contact:

Aviation Consumer Protection Division
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590
Tel: (800) 255-1111
Email: airconsumer@ost.dot.gov

REPORTING AND TRAINING

The North Carolina Department of Justice has a department-wide approach in assisting local law enforcement agencies with hate crime reporting.

The North Carolina Justice Academy offers courses on hate crime reporting and verification for law enforcement officers. This training is essential to insure the accurate collection of hate crime data.

The State Bureau of Investigation Division of Criminal Information collects hate crime data and provides technical assistance and training to agencies involved in hate crime reporting.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more information on hate crime training and reporting, contact :

State Bureau of Investigation
Division of Criminal Information
3320 Garner Road
Raleigh, NC 27626-0500
Tel: (919) 662-4500
<http://sbi.jus.state.nc.us>

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